## Message Text

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43

**ACTION ARA-20** 

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 FBIE-00 SY-10

RSR-01 USSS-00 /087 W

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R 131637Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4794 INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

CONFIDENTIAL SAN JOSE 2875

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFJ, GT, CS SUBJECT: COSTA RICAN PRESS REPORTS FBI PROTECTS SANDOVAL

1. IN AUGUST 11 ISSUE, LA NACION FEATURED A STORY TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FBI EXTENDS SPECIAL PROTECTION TO MARIO SANDOVAL, THE PRESIDENT OF THE GUATEMALAN LEGISLATURE. THE STORY ATTRIBUTES THE REPORT DIRECTLY TO SANDOVAL, STATING THAT PRIOR TO BOARDING A PLANE FOR THE US FOR A MEDICAL CHECKUP, HE TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE FBI EXTENDED HIM SPECIAL PROTECTION ON PREVIOUS VISITS TO THE US. INCLUDING GUARDS AT A HOUSTON HOSPITAL WHERE HE WAS OPERATED FOR THROAT CANCER THREE YEARS AGO. THE STORY WENT ON TO SAY THAT SOURCES CLOSE TO SANDOVAL ALLEGED THAT EVEN ON HIS PLANE (PRESUMABLY THE PLANE ON WHICH HE TRAVELED LAST FRIDAY) THERE WERE "SPECIAL NORTH AMERICAN AGENTS" TO PREVENT HIJACKING.

2. FEATURING OF THE ARTICLE IN THE COSTA RICAN PRESS IS NO ACCIDENT. AS THE DEPARTMENT CONFIDENTIAL

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KNOWS, THE FIGUERES ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES SANDOVAL HAS PLOTTED AND WILL PLOT AGAINST IT. RECENT STORIES THAT GUATEMALA AND SALVADOR WERE PLOTTING AGAINST COSTA RICA INDICATE

SENSITIVITY ON THIS POINT (SEE SAN JOSE 2785).
SINCE IT IS POSSIBLE WE MAY GET SOME QUERIES,
INSINUATIONS, OR AT LEAST RAISED EYEBROWS,
EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AS
TO US PROTECTION THAT MAY HAVE BEEN OR IS
BEING EXTENDED TO SANDOVAL, AND OUR EXPLANATIONS
WITH REGARD THERETO.
VAKY

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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Subject: COSTA RICAN PRESS REPORTS FBI PROTECTS SANDOVAL TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, GT, CS, FBI, (SANDOVAL, MARIO)
To: STATE INFO GUATEMALA

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005